1	SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
2	ED BURGESS
3	ON BEHALF OF
4 5 6	CAROLINAS CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CCEBA) DOCKET NO. 2021-88-E
7	
8	I. INTRODUCTION
9	Q. Please state your name, business address, and occupation.
10	A. My name is Ed Burgess. My business address is 2150 Allston Way, Suite 400, Berkeley
11	California 94704. I am Senior Director of Strategen Consulting's Government and Utility
12	Consulting Practice. My core expertise is in policy and regulation of the electric power sector at
13	the state level, with a specialized focus on economic analysis, technical regulatory support,
14	resource planning and procurement, utility rates, and policy and program design.
15	Q. Are you the same Ed Burgess that offered direct testimony in this docket?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. What is the purpose of your surrebuttal testimony?
18	A. I submit this testimony to provide responses to the rebuttal testimony of witnesses Bell,
19	David, Kassis and Hanzlik. Primarily, my testimony addresses the fact that Mr. David and Mr.
20	Bell confirm much of the basis for my earlier testimony. In fact, they both admit that DESC's
21	proposed VIC is not actually reflective of DESC's past or present operating practices. Further, it
22	appears from their testimony that DESC does not consider the Guidehouse analysis to be final or
23	definitive, meaning that the proposed VIC is based on recommendations that DESC may never
24	adopt, making it speculative and an insufficient basis on which to charge the solar facilities for
25	integration costs.

I also respond to the DESC witnesses' criticisms of my earlier testimony, particularly 1 those directed at my statements that the assumptions about DESC's operating reserves which 2 3 were included in the Guidehouse analysis, and upon which the proposed VIC appears to be calculated, are unsubstantiated. 4

5

6

## II. GENERAL COMMENTS ON DESC'S REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

# Q. Are there any sections of DESC's rebuttal that stood out to you?

Yes. While there are many issues in DESC's rebuttal I will address, I would like to draw A. special attention to Mr. David's rebuttal testimony on page 7, which confirms many of the facts I laid out in my opening testimony. First, he confirms that the operating reserves used in his study are "not what they have been in the past" and "are greater than what DESC currently maintains." Thus, DESC admits that the proposed VIC is not actually reflective of DESC's past or present operating practices which are already reliably accommodating Tranche 1 facilities, the vast majority of which are already operational. Furthermore, regarding future integration costs, Mr. David notes that "DESC has informed Guidehouse that it is taking the VIC Study's recommendations for operating reserve levels under advisement." And Witness Bell confirms that DESC is still "evaluating the study results." Thus, it appears that any future changes to DESC's current operating practices to integrate solar are still being evaluated, and there is no evidence that DESC has already committed to any changes on account of Guidehouse's analysis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> David Rebuttal, p 7, line 9-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> David Rebuttal, p 7, line 13-14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> David Rebuttal, p 7, line 11-12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bell Rebuttal P. 3, lines 18 – 19.

1	It is worth noting that DESC had originally portrayed the Guidehouse analysis as
2	definitive proof of integration costs that will be incurred. Now, however, it appears that the
3	Guidehouse analysis represents merely a set of recommendations that the Company may or may
4	not adopt. <sup>5</sup> This makes DESC's proposed VIC charge even more troubling. In essence, DESC is
5	proposing to charge solar facilities a fixed fee now for possible integration costs it might incur in
6	the future <u>if</u> it adopts Guidehouse's recommendations – a set of recommendations the Company
7	hasn't fully evaluated and are still "under advisement." Meanwhile, DESC has yet to provide
8	critical details on how the operating reserve levels recommended by Guidehouse were
9	calculated, so there is no way to determine if they are reasonable.
10	
11	III. RESPONSE TO MR. DAVID'S REBUTTAL
12	Suitability of the Guidehouse Model for Analyzing Integration Costs
13	Q. Mr. David disagreed with your characterization of the Guidehouse results as a "rough
14	approximation" and described features of Guidehouse's Reference Case forecast to make
15	the VIC analysis seem more robust. <sup>6</sup> Do you find this testimony compelling?
16	A. No. I have no doubt that Guidehouse's Reference Case forecast is robust for certain
17	modeling efforts related to bulk power systems. However, that does not necessarily mean that the
18	exact modeling approach used by Guidehouse in this case is either a) a good representation of
19	DESC's operating practices, or b) well-suited for modeling solar integration costs.

<sup>5</sup> Additional statements that Guidehouse analysis is a recommendation appear in David's rebuttal on page 5, lines 10 and 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> David Rebuttal, p 2, lines 10 through p 3, line 9

- 1 Q. Are there any specific aspects of Guidehouse's modeling approach that you believe are
- 2 not well-suited for modeling integration costs?
- 3 A. Yes. For example, Guidehouse has admitted that PROMOD is limited in terms of its
- 4 ability to vary operating reserves within a time period shorter than one month. This means that
- 5 the model essentially assumes DESC's system operators would set a fixed level of operating
- 6 reserves at the start of each month and would never be able to adjust that level afterwards, even
- 7 in response to the normal daily fluctuations in solar energy due to nighttime and daytime. While
- 8 DESC has attempted to make some post-modeling adjustments to account for this limitation, this
- 9 is far from ideal. Clearly Guidehouse's use of PROMOD is not well-suited for a solar integration
- 10 cost study, which ideally would examine solar variability (and corresponding operating reserve
- needs) on an hourly, or even subhourly basis, rather than monthly. There are other production
- 12 cost models that have this capability and many other integration studies that have taken this
- superior approach. Yet, DESC and Guidehouse have chosen not to do so.
- Q. Mr. David disputed your notion that the Guidehouse model inputs misrepresent DESC's
- actual operating practices, claiming that it "worked closely with DESC to verify the
- operating parameters..." in its study. How do you respond?
- 18 A. Even if Guidehouse worked with DESC to verify *some* modeling parameters, this does
- 19 not mean that *all* of the input assumptions are correct or aligned with actual operating practices.
- 20 Most importantly, Guidehouse assumed required levels of operating reserves for solar that are far
- 21 in excess of what DESC currently designates for solar, and far in excess of what would be
- 22 needed to accommodate the recent solar decline events that Mr. Hanzlik detailed. For example,

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> David Rebuttal, p 3, line 17-18.

- 1 Guidehouse assumes 581 MW of operating reserves are required to integrate solar Tranche 1 in
- 2 June. This contrasts significantly with the 161 MW (on average) of reserves that DESC actually
- 3 designated for solar in June 2021.<sup>9</sup>
- 4 Similarly, Mr. Hanzlik, who works in DESC's control room, described an event that
- occurred on June 18 that led to an unanticipated ~200 MW drop in solar production over two
- 6 hours (or ~25 MW per 15-minute interval). This amounts to much less than half of the
- 7 Guidehouse-assumed operating reserve requirements for solar of 581 MW.
- 8 Q. How did Guidehouse determine the 581 MW of required operating reserves for solar in
- 9 June?

- 10 A. As I explained in my opening testimony, DESC has not provided enough information for
- me to verify how this level was determined. While Mr. David described the methodology in
- general terms, he did not provide the mathematical formula showing how the 581 MW June
- value and other monthly operating reserve requirements were calculated based on the projected
- levels of solar production and/or forecast errors. DESC did provide an initial data set that it
- claims was used to derive these values, <sup>10</sup> however, the exact algorithm Guidehouse applied to
- this data set in order to determine the subsequent reserve requirements has never been revealed.
- 18 <u>Significance of Recent Historical Operations (Last 2 Years)</u>
- 19 Q. Mr. David suggested that the cost of solar integration over the last two years is not
- 20 relevant versus what might occur over the long term. 11 Do you agree?

<sup>9</sup> Reflects the average of solar-designated reserves during solar-producing hours in June 2021. This is based on data provided in the DESC's Attachment to its Response to CCEBA Interrogatory 1-4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Exh. PDB Table 11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See Guidehouse Flexibility Reserves Requirement Workbooks included in ORS Supplemental 1-4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> David Rebuttal, p 5.

No. The last 2 years are very relevant to Guidehouse's Tranche 1 VIC analysis because 1 A. the vast majority (~90%) of Tranche 1 facilities have been deployed over this time period. As 2 3 such, I would expect to see DESC's actual operating reserves for solar (and integration costs) approaching what Guidehouse modeled for Tranche 1. However, that does not appear to be the 4 case, as I explained in my opening testimony. In fact, the total operating reserves DESC held 5 6 over this time period did not appreciably increase, meaning that there were virtually no 7 incremental integration costs as DESC has defined it. Meanwhile, DESC admits that there have been no events during this time period where its operating reserves were insufficient to account 8 for solar variability. <sup>12</sup> Mr. David suggests that there might still be a reserve shortfall due to 9 10 Tranche 1 solar at some point over the next 10-years, however I am skeptical of this assertion. In support of this, Mr. David points to the fact that the Guidehouse reserve levels were based on a 11 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of projected shortfalls, meaning there is a chance of a shortfall in at least 1 year 12 out of 10. However, if the underlying data of shortfall projections is already skewed (which I 13 believe is the case), then the fact that a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was used becomes meaningless. 14

- O. Mr. David's rebuttal suggests that future integration costs might be greater than what 16
- 17 DESC has experienced in the last two years, as more solar resources are added (e.g.,
- Tranche 2 and above). How do you respond? 18
- 19 A. As I stated in my opening testimony, none of my recommendations preclude DESC from
- 20 future applications to recover integration costs it incurs from future tranches of solar on a
- 21 prospective basis. However, I believe it is premature at this moment for DESC to be requesting
- 22 recovery of these costs from existing facilities or those that will be deployed soon. Mr. David's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> David Rebuttal, p 5, line 14.

- rebuttal appears to misinterpret my opening testimony as suggesting that I am attempting to tie 1
- future integration costs to past performance. 13 Instead I am merely pointing out that, at a 2
- minimum, the Tranche 1 integration costs DESC proposes are erroneous because Tranche 1 3
- resources are already largely deployed and there has been no corresponding rise in operating 4
- reserves. As Witness Levitas has testified, it is also important that solar facilities have certainty 5
- 6 about the impact of any VIC on project revenues during the current term of their PPAs. I address
- this further in the next section. 7

- 9 *Uncertainty Caused by the Interim VIC (with Potential True-Up)*
- Q. Do you have any first-hand knowledge of how the uncertainty of the interim VIC creates 10
- problems for solar developers? 11
- Yes. Since the interim VIC was adopted in 2020, I have consulted on multiple projects in 12 Α.
- South Carolina that have encountered difficulties obtaining project financing as a result of the 13
- 14 Commission's decision in that case. The concept of the VIC itself (which is relatively
- uncommon for solar projects around the country), and the possibility that it could change in the 15
- future through a true-up adjustment led to confusion among financiers and developers. 16

- Q. Given the ongoing problems with DESC's VIC analysis that you've identified, how can 18
- 19 the Commission provide solar developers with greater business certainty?
- 20 A. First, the Commission should recognize that, although it may be an easier path forward,
- 21 the incorrect approach would be to keep the VIC at its current interim level (with possible true-
- 22 up) and defer action until an improved VIC study is completed. Doing so will simply perpetuate

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> David Rebuttal, p 6.

2	against QFs. Solar developers should not be held hostage in this manner simply because DESC
3	did not complete an adequate study of its own integration costs. Thus, I strongly believe the
4	Commission should either:
5	a) fix the VIC at a level consistent with the recommendations in my opening testimony
6	(i.e., at zero or at the alternative calculations), <u>or</u>
7	b) eliminate the VIC until the Commission adopts a new avoided cost rate in the future.
8	Under this latter approach, any future VIC should only apply prospectively to PPAs executed
9	after that new rate is approved.
10	Q. Do you believe these approaches are consistent with the Commission's authority under
11	South Carolina statute?
12	A. Yes. For example, Section 58-41-20 E(3)(b) states the following (with my emphasis on
13	"prohibit"):
14 15 16 17 18 19	In establishing standard offer and form contract power purchase agreements, the commission shall consider whether such power purchase agreements should <b>prohibit</b> any of the following:  (b) the electrical utility reducing the price paid to the small power producer based or costs incurred by the electrical utility to respond to the intermittent nature of electrical generation by the small power producer.
21	Furthermore, I believe keeping the VIC as a floating or variable component of avoided costs may
22	actually be contrary to the common sense meaning of Section 58-41-20(F)(1), which requires
23	electric utilities to offer "fixed price power purchase agreements."
24	

the current state of uncertainty and would be commercially unreasonable and discriminatory

1

- 1 <u>DESC's Operating Reserve Requirements in the VIC Analysis</u>
- 2 Q. Mr. David testifies that you do "not know whether the company's current practice of
- 3 holding incremental operating reserves equal to 40% of expected solar generation is
- 4 appropriate."14 How do you respond?
- 5 A. Mr. David's rebuttal testimony suggested that I was "guessing" what the correct level of
- 6 operating reserves should be. However, this is not the case. My conclusion that the 40% level is
- 7 unsubstantiated does not equate to a "guess" as to what the correct level should be. In this
- 8 instance, Mr. David's testimony is simply a tactic to shift the burden of proof away from DESC,
- 9 which bears the burden of identifying and justifying the correct level of operating reserves. My
- main point here was simply that DESC has provided no evidence to support the 40% threshold it
- currently uses, let alone the even higher levels of operating reserves that Guidehouse assumes in
- its VIC analysis. Furthermore, in prior testimony before the Commission on DESC's IRP,
- DESC's witnesses testified that for the analysis it conducted as part of its IRP process it
- assumed a 35% threshold.<sup>15</sup>
- 15
- Q. Mr. David's rebuttal on pages 9 and 10 refers to your interpretation of specific Excel
- 17 files that DESC has provided regarding its VIC calculations. Specifically, he states that "in
- 18 these workpapers, Guidehouse's analysis shows DESC carrying available operating
- reserves in significant excess of the baseline 250 MW requirement in most hours." How do
- 20 you respond?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> David Rebuttal, page 7, line 16-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Dominion's (DESC) IRP – Energy Freedom Act 2019-226-E, Hrg. Tr. ("DESC IRP Hrg. Tr.") Vol. 2, p. 360; lines 6-13.

1	A. Wir. David's reduital makes no sense to me. The specific excel mes ne references (i.e.,
2	the "Guidehouse VIC Calculation Workbook" Excel files) do not contain any information about
3	the amount of operating reserves (i.e. MW) that were included in Guidehouse's analysis or how
4	they were derived. It is possible that Mr. David meant to refer to another set of workpapers that
5	actually include references to operating reserves (e.g. the Guidehouse Flexibility Reserves
6	Requirement Workbooks). However as I stated earlier, none of the workpapers provided to date
7	reveal precisely how Guidehouse derived the operating reserve requirements for its VIC analysis
8	On page 11 of his rebuttal, Mr. David tries to dispute this notion by claiming that the
9	"Guidehouse Flexibility Reserves Requirement Workbook" Excel files that were provided to
10	CCEBA include the full set of data that Guidehouse used to calculate the incremental operating
11	reserve requirements for solar. However, even if the initial data Guidehouse used is present in
12	these Excel files, the exact algorithm and methodology used to calculate the reserve requirements
13	has still not been produced. Thus I still cannot verify if Guidehouse's approach is correct.
14	
15	Q. Mr. David's rebuttal on page 12 states that the data DESC provided in the Guidehouse
16	Flexibility Reserves Requirement Workbook Excel files "demonstrates that the impact of
17	geographic diversity on solar forecast error and corresponding operating reserve
18	requirement needs were considered appropriately." Do you agree?
19	A. No. Simply referring to input data from multiple sites is not proof that geographic
20	diversity was appropriately accounted for. The way the data from these multiple sites is
21	aggregated and evaluated needs to be transparently demonstrated and it has not been.
22	Specifically, DESC should have provided the algorithm showing how the individual solar sites
23	are aggregated to a system-wide level of solar production. DESC has still not provided any

- evidence in this case detailing its exact approach to aggregating multiple solar sites for the VIC 1
- analysis. Moreover, as I mentioned in my opening testimony, the workpapers DESC provided in 2
- response to CCEBA 2-14, which it used for the "illustrative examples" on PBD-2, Table 13 used 3
- an incorrect formula for aggregating solar sites. This leads me to believe that the same incorrect 4
- approach may have also been used in the VIC analysis. This is a vitally important issue, since 5
- 6 DESC's rebuttal testimony has shifted emphasis away from forecast error and to simple
- 7 production variability concerns. Geographic diversity, also known as geographic smoothing, is a
- significant factor when predicting systemwide solar variability since adding a greater number of 8
- 9 solar facilities across a region has been shown to decrease or "smooth out" the production
- variability seen at any individual site, as one would expect. 10
- Q. To summarize, DESC and Guidehouse have not yet provided the underlying formulas 12
- and methods used to determine the solar reserve requirements in its modeling. Correct? 13
- 14 A. Yes.

15

- 16 Q. What does Mr. David's testimony state regarding this?
- 17 A. On page 12, Mr. David states that "no such formula workbooks exist as Guidehouse
- employed a VBA-based model to conduct Monte Carlo draws to compare the actual generation 18
- 19 data to the scheduled data."
- 21 Q. How do you respond?
- 22 A. Mr. David's testimony in this instance is troubling. First, there is no reason why
- 23 Guidehouse could not provide the VBA-based model to parties in the case, yet it has failed to do

- so. Second, the use of a Monte Carlo simulation model does not appear to be very useful or 1 2 necessary. While a Monte Carlo approach may be able to capture some seasonal variability 3 across months in the year, doing so is basically meaningless if more fundamental issues are left unaddressed (e.g. geographic diversity; percentage of solar drop assumed). This would be akin to 4 preparing a tax return in which the dollar values are rounded to the nearest 1000<sup>th</sup> of a penny, 5 6 while forgetting to itemize major deductions. In essence Guidehouse's analysis appears to provide an unnecessary level of precision in some respects, while failing to correct more 7 fundamental methodological flaws. In fact, I'm concerned that DESC's reliance on a proprietary 8 9 VBA-based Monte Carlo model needlessly creates a "black box" as a means to obfuscate the true underlying methodology. 10 11 Q. DESC acknowledges that some of the analysis included in the Guidehouse report 12 assumes a 60% level of solar is used to calculate operating reserves. 16 However, on page 13, 13 Mr. David's rebuttal states that 60% "is not used in any calculations to determine the VIC; 14
- it is only used to show illustrative examples of when there may be operating reserve 15 shortages due to solar generation shortfall if the Company's minimum operating reserve 16 17 requirement is not increased from its current 250 MW level." How do you respond? I'm encouraged to learn that 60% is not used in the VIC analysis since it is plainly 18 A. 19 excessive. However, I have serious concerns about Mr. David's response. First, his statement
- 20 calls into question the purpose of the "illustrative examples" that Guidehouse provided in PDB 21 Exh. 2, Table 13, which appeared to show examples of projected reserve shortages under the
- 22 erroneous 60% assumption. The need to increase operating reserves to avoid shortages like these

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> DESC Response to CCEBA Interrogatory 2-17

- 1 was the underlying premise for DESC to propose the VIC in the first place. At a minimum, the
- 2 table with these illustrative examples is rendered completely irrelevant since it uses an erroneous
- 3 60% threshold rather than the more reasonable 40% level. As I testified earlier, none of these
- 4 instances would show a reserve shortage if the 40% level were used. <sup>17</sup> Second, this does not
- 5 resolve the issue of what level of reserves (as a percent of solar output) Guidehouse did
- 6 ultimately assume in its own VIC analysis. DESC and Guidehouse have yet to provide that
- 7 pivotal piece of information. However, if a simple correction to the formula (i.e., from 60% to
- 8 40%) eliminates these illustrative examples of shortfalls, it calls into question the entire premise
- 9 of the proposed VIC.

- Q. How does Mr. David respond to your claim that the incremental operating reserves
- Guidehouse assumes for solar are inflated on pages 23-24 of his rebuttal?<sup>18</sup>
- A. Mr. David's response is frankly baffling. In the example I gave, I pointed out that the
- maximum reserve shortfall projected by Guidehouse for an hour in October was 151 MW, which
- is approximately half of the 299 MW in incremental reserves that Guidehouse requires for
- October in its VIC analysis. Mr. David then explains that if he were to decrease the incremental
- 17 reserve requirements for Tranche 1 in the model from 299 MW to 151 MW, then the total
- operating reserve requirement would be 401 MW (i.e., 250 MW baseline plus 151 MW for
- 19 Tranche 1), which Mr. David points out is actually *less* than the 498 MW of modeled reserves
- available in this hour. Thus, reducing the inflated 299 MW reserve requirement to a more
- 21 reasonable 151 MW level would appear to eliminate any potential shortfall in October, thereby

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Burgess Direct Testimony at page 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> David Rebuttal, p 23-24

- 1 confirming my initial claim in opening testimony. However, Mr. David strangely draws the
- 2 opposite conclusion, stating that such a change could "still result in the same level of potential
- 3 reserve shortfall." This is in direct contradiction to the facts Mr. David just provided showing
- 4 that the modeled reserve levels would exceed the minimum by nearly 100 MW. I'm not clear
- 5 what to make of Mr. David's testimony here since the facts he presents are in direct contradiction
- 6 with his conclusions. Moreover, the facts he presents appear to support the conclusions of my
- 7 opening testimony.

- 9 Fairfield Pumped Hydro
- 10 Q. Do you have any remaining concerns with how Guidehouse has modeled the Fairfield
- 11 Pumped Hydro facility?
- 12 A. Yes. On page 14 of his rebuttal, Mr. David states that "Guidehouse defined specific hours
- in which the Fairfield pumped storage asset can (but does not have to if market conditions do not
- require it) either pump or generate." This is concerning to me because it confirms that
- Guidehouse is limiting Fairfield's operations to "specific hours" which appears to be an arbitrary
- restriction that may limit its ability to provide reserves during critical hours, even if it does
- provide reserves during the vast majority of solar generating hours. Moreover, DESC has not
- fully explained why Fairfield provided "zero" reserves in the illustrative examples which I
- 19 referenced in my opening.<sup>20</sup> This suggests to me that DESC is still underestimating the capability
- of this resource in its analysis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> David Rebuttal, page 24, line 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Burgess Direct Testimony at page 20.

This is especially true due to the fact that this facility can provide flexible reserves at a cost that is "de minimus." As Mr. David states, "the Fairfield pumped storage facility is modeled with no variable costs, no start costs, minimum up and down times of only 1 hour, and a minimum generation level of only 0.1% of its maximum capabilities; so long as the reservoir is filled to a sufficient level and the asset is otherwise available (i.e. not offline due to planned maintenance), PROMOD can turn it on immediately in order to provide operating reserves at a level up to 99.9% of its maximum capability whenever necessary." This incredible flexibility suggests to me that the resource should be available to provide quick-start reserves at almost no cost during most hours, rather than the "zero" contribution I mentioned above. Despite this, Mr. David mentions that "the model chooses other sources of operating reserves because they result in lower system costs." Given the low cost of Fairfield, it is hard to believe that the model would choose other resources instead, unless other arbitrary restrictions are being applied. Since DESC has not conducted this study through a transparent stakeholder process it is difficult for me to assess whether any restrictions DESC has applied to this resource are appropriate.

## **Geographic Diversity**

## 17 Q. How did Mr. David respond to your concerns regarding geographic diversity?

- A. Mr. David suggested that I misinterpreted the data DESC provided in 2-14, and that "The 60% drop in solar production does not represent a scenario in which every single facility's production simultaneously drops 60%; rather, it represents a scenario in which the production
- 21 from a select group of facilities drops to or close to 0 while the rest are entirely unaffected."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> David Rebuttal, page 16, line 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> David Rebuttal, page 16, lines 1-8.

## 1 Q. Does this make sense to you?

- 2 A. No. It is obvious from examining the workbook provided by DESC in its response to
- 3 CCEBA 2-14 (specifically, see Column G of the "Hourly Summary" tab) that a 60% reduction
- 4 was applied to the sum of output from all solar facilities on DESC's system. This is equivalent to
- 5 what I stated in my opening testimony that is, Guidehouse is inappropriately assuming a
- 6 simultaneous 60% drop across all facilities is possible when estimating the risk of a reserve
- 7 shortfall.

8

- 9 Q. What is your assessment of Mr. David's claim that there is some correlation in solar
- drops due to the relatively small size of DESC's service territory?<sup>23</sup>
- 11 A. Mr. David provided no analysis to support this claim. Moreover, he uses this
- unsubstantiated theory as a justification for Guidehouse's assumption that a 60% solar drop is
- possible. Further, the charts shown by Mr. Hanslik from 2021 seem to defy this assumption
- since, in each case, a substantial portion of solar generation remains online during the decline
- 15 events.

16

- 17 *Hourly Weighting of Integration Costs*
- Q. How did Mr. David respond to your critique of Guidehouse's approach to the weighting
- 19 of integration costs?
- 20 A. Mr. David's response was confusing in many respects. First, he does not fully explain
- 21 why an hourly weighting approach (which I believe is more accurate) was initially considered
- but then later rejected in lieu of a binary weighting approach. Second, he argues that assuming a

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> See David, p 17, lines 10-19.

- 1 higher level of reserves in the early morning and late evening may be appropriate due to
- 2 operating constraints of thermal units. While I agree that some advanced unit commitment may
- dictate the level of reserves in some cases, this still does not explain why Guidehouse's binary
- 4 assumption is appropriate, or whether these unit commitment issues are actually due to solar. For
- 5 example, in winter months, early morning unit commitment is likely to occur anyways to meet
- 6 the morning system peak, and wouldn't necessarily be attributable to solar. Finally, Mr. David
- 7 continues to make contradictory and illogical arguments. For example, he appears to agree with
- 8 me that the MW magnitude of an unexpected shortfall is more relevant than the percentage
- 9 change.<sup>24</sup> However, in the very next sentence he contradicts this by stating that percentage
- 10 change should take precedence.

# 12 Tranche 1 Cost Allocation

11

18

- Q. How does Mr. David respond to your claim that the integration costs for a 973 MW
- solar scenario are over-allocated to the 633 MW of Tranche 1 facilities?
- 15 A. Mr. David argues that I am mistaken that some of the integration costs are attributable to
- the Baseline 340 MW tranche, and instead that "All of the incremental increases in minimum
- operating reserve requirements... are attributable specifically to the Tranche 1 solar capacity."<sup>25</sup>

#### 19 Q. How do you respond?

- 20 A. I disagree with Mr. David's reasoning since it suggests that the 340 MW of Baseline solar
- 21 facilities have zero effect on total operating reserve needs in the Tranche 1 scenario. However, if

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> David Rebuttal, p 20, line 16-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> David Rebuttal, p 22, line 1-4.

- the 340 MW of Baseline solar facilities were removed from this scenario, then it is reasonable to
- 2 expect fewer incremental operating reserves would be required to support the 633 MW of
- 3 Tranche 1 additions. Instead, Mr. David appears to be suggesting that removing the baseline
- 4 would make no difference at all. If that is indeed the case, then Guidehouse should redo its
- 5 Tranche 1 VIC analysis assuming solar resources equal to 633 MW, rather than 973 MW.

- 7 Solar Forecast Time Horizon
- 8 Q. How does Mr. David address your concerns regarding the use of a 4-hour solar forecast
- 9 in the model, versus a 1-hour forecast?
- 10 A. Mr. David confirms that a 1-hour forecast instead of a 4-hour forecast "would produce
- significantly less forecast error"<sup>26</sup> and that this "would have reduced what Guidehouse modeled
- as the incremental increase in operating reserve requirements for each tranche of solar."<sup>27</sup>
- However, he also argues that the 4-hour forecast is appropriate because it more closely matches
- actual DESC operations.

- 16 Q. How do you respond?
- 17 A. If DESC operators are still using a solar forecast significantly greater than 1-hour then
- they are not following industry best practices. Indeed, Mr. David suggests that DESC, even
- though it has developed its own more accurate forecasts, is instead relying on daily forecasts
- 20 submitted by solar facilities, such that DESC would most afternoons be relying on forecasting
- 21 data that is potentially many more than four hours ahead. Many other system operators around

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> David Rebuttal, page 27, lines 18-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> David Rebuttal, page 28, lines 7-9.

- 1 the country currently use forecasts of 1-hour or less for solar and wind.<sup>28</sup> For example, the
- 2 California ISO has a solar forecast that updates every 5-minutes. If DESC's operators are using
- 3 out-of-date forecasting techniques, that should not serve as a justification for DESC to charge
- 4 solar facilities extra (via the VIC) simply to account for the Company's own inefficient operating
- 5 practices.

- 7 Q. DESC's rebuttal includes several references to the forecasts it receives from solar
- 8 generation facilities. Do you have any thoughts on how this process might be improved?
- 9 A. Yes. CCEBA has indicated to me that they are generally supportive of finding ways to
- improve their forecasts from solar facilities as a means to improve DESC's operations and would
- be open to a constructive dialog with DESC about this topic. However, it is important to note
- that there may be several approaches to doing this. Throughout its rebuttal, DESC suggests that
- individual solar facilities are ultimately responsible for providing accurate forecasts to DESC,
- and that these forecasts are often inaccurate or absent altogether. However as Mr. Hanzlik's
- testimony indicates, there appears to be a strong case for DESC developing the forecast for solar
- facilities on its system, rather than individual facilities. To better improve its forecasting, DESC
- could work collaboratively with solar facility owners to improve its own centralized forecast
- over time, using industry best practices. This would be similar to the approach taken by many
- other system operators around the country. As Mr. Hanzlik notes, DESC's own forecast is
- already much more accurate than the aggregated forecast of individual facilities, and as such it
- 21 would make sense to build upon that superior approach.

<sup>28</sup> https://www.utilitydive.com/news/how-grid-operators-forecast-weather-and-output-from-renewables/561038/ SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF ED BURGESS

## 1 IV. RESPONSE TO MR. BELL'S REBUTTAL

- 2 Integration Costs Collected Through the Fuel Recovery Charge
- 3 Q. Mr. Bell disputes the notion that the VIC should be based on actual costs due to
- 4 integration, stating that "The actual costs to which [Mr. Burgess] refers are already
- 5 embedded in fuel and operating costs and, thus, in the fuel recovery charge."<sup>29</sup> What is
- 6 your response to this?
- 7 A. First, I believe this contradicts the Commission's Order No. 2020-244, which I addressed
- 8 in my opening testimony and which requires "actual integration costs" be studied, rather than
- 9 theoretical costs.
- Second, if it is true that actual integration costs are currently being recovered through
- DESC's fuel recovery charge, then the fuel recovery charge should be reduced by an amount
- equivalent to any dollars collected through the VIC. This is necessary in order to avoid double
- recovery of these costs to the detriment of DESC customers.

# Q. Can you elaborate on what you mean by double recovery?

- 16 A. Yes. As Mr. Bell states, any actual costs of integration are already embedded in the fuel
- 17 recovery charge which is being collected from all DESC customers. Meanwhile, DESC is
- 18 seeking to simultaneously recover these incremental integration costs from solar QFs through the
- 19 VIC. Thus the costs would be inappropriately recovered *twice* by DESC unless a corresponding
- 20 adjustment is made to the fuel recovery charge. I am not aware of any proposal from DESC to
- 21 make this corresponding adjustment. Such an adjustment should be a condition of the
- 22 Commission's approval of any VIC charge in this proceeding. Additionally, the Commission

-

14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Bell Rebuttal, page 4, lines 4-5.

- should consider how DESC customers might be remunerated for any integration costs DESC has 1
- overcollected to date due to double recovery through both the fuel recovery charge and the 2
- 3 interim VIC.

- Actual Versus Projected Integration Costs 5
- Q. What does Mr. Bell assert regarding the Commission's intention for a "true-up" of the 6
- current interim VIC? 7
- Mr. Bell states that "The Company understands that the Commission never intended for 8 A.
- 9 the true-up to be based on a post-analysis determination of historical costs, but through an
- integration charge study like that submitted by Guidehouse in this proceeding."30 10

11

- Q. Do you agree? 12
- No. This is not consistent with my understanding of the Commission's previous order 13 A.
- which states that "the VIC/EIC will be subject to a true-up, either up or down, depending on the 14
- actual integration cost indicated by the integration study."<sup>31</sup> Based on a plain reading of the 15
- Commission's Order, I expected that the true-up would be based on the "actual integration cost" 16
- 17 that DESC incurred.

- 19 Q. Mr. Bell's rebuttal discusses the fact that DESC's reserves in recent years have been
- 20 higher than the minimum level required. He also insinuates that your testimony suggested
- that this was not a normal outcome.<sup>32</sup> Is that correct? 21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Bell Rebuttal, page 4, lines 14-17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Order No. 2020-244, p 5-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Bell Rebuttal, page 6 line 9-11.

- No. Mr. Bell has mischaracterized my position. In fact, my opening testimony agreed 1 A.
- with Mr. Bell on this point. As I had clearly stated, the fact that DESC has excess reserves at 2
- 3 times "does not necessarily mean that DESC is operating its system inefficiently as there may be
- instances where the most efficient dispatch scenario also leads to excess operating reserves."33 4
- Meanwhile, what Mr. Bell omits from his rebuttal is the fact that that DESC should be able to 5
- 6 use these excess reserves to integrate solar at little to no additional cost.

- Q. Mr. Bell argues that your analysis of historical data is a "casual observation" and that 8
- 9 only a study using projections is capable of assessing the true integration costs. Do you
- agree? 10
- No. I do not consider the historical data that DESC provided to be a "casual observation." 11 A.
- These data reflect the real results of DESC's operations, which have already accommodated the 12
- vast majority of the Tranche 1 facilities. Thus I believe this data is a reliable indicator of the 13
- 14 level of operating reserves that DESC will need to accommodate these facilities going forward.
- In fact, I believe this historical data is a more reliable and transparent indicator than the 15
- Guidehouse projections which include black box formulas that parties to this case have not been 16
- 17 able to examine.
- Q. How did Mr. Bell respond to your observation that the reserves it typically carries far 18
- 19 exceed the baseline requirement in the Guidehouse study of 250 MW (as well as the
- 20 requirements for Tranches 1, 2 and 3)?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Burgess page 15, fn 6.

- 1 A. Mr. Bell concurs with my observation. However, it is worth noting that Mr. Bell omits
- 2 any explanation of whether additional reserves are needed to integrate solar beyond what is
- 3 typical for DESC to carry.

- 5 Other Issues (e.g., Solar Forecast, SEEM, Mitigation Protocol)
- 6 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Bell's statement that the use of a 1-hour forecast would lead to
- 7 minimal reduction in operating reserve costs?<sup>34</sup>
- 8 A. No. In fact this position appears contradictory to Mr. David's rebuttal testimony which
- 9 states that "using a 1-hour ahead forecast of solar generation rather than a 4-hour ahead forecast
- in comparison against actual generation would produce significantly less forecast error."<sup>35</sup>

11

- 12 Q. Does Mr. Bell dispute the notion that a regional imbalance market like SEEM would
- 13 help reduce DESC's solar integration costs?
- 14 A. Yes. His rebuttal testimony on page 10 addresses this.

- 16 Q. What is your response to that position?
- 17 A. It is concerning due to the fact that renewable integration is one of the primary benefits
- that the proponents of SEEM have touted in recent months. For example, the front page of the
- 19 SEEM website states the following: "Benefits include cost savings for customers and better
- 20 integration of diverse generation resources, including rapidly growing renewables and fewer
- 21 solar curtailments."<sup>36</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> See Bell Rebuttal at page 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> David Rebuttal, page 27, lines 16-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> https://southeastenergymarket.com/

- 1 Q. Does Mr. Bell agree with your suggestion that South Carolina should adopt the same
- 2 mitigation protocol (or modified version of it) that Dominion has already used in North
- 3 Carolina?
- 4 A. No. This inconsistency is somewhat perplexing to me since there is no fundamental
- 5 difference in solar variability between the two states. Furthermore, DESC provided no
- 6 meaningful justification for the rejection of its own North Carolina protocol.

- 8 V. RESPONSE TO MR. HANZLIK'S REBUTTAL
- 9 Q. Have you reviewed the rebuttal testimony of Mr. Hanzlik?
- 10 A. Yes.

11

- 12 Q. What were your general impressions based on this review?
- A. Mr. Hanzlik provided useful insights into the way in which DESC's system operators
- have managed to integrate solar facilities into their day-to-day operations. I found the
- information to be very helpful in illustrating the actual operational issues of solar integration that
- 16 DESC faces.

17

- Q. Do you believe anything stated in Mr. Hanzlik's rebuttal is significantly at odds with
- 19 your opening testimony?
- 20 A. With the exception of the final page, no, I found that Mr. Hanzlik's testimony was largely
- 21 consistent with my understanding of DESC's system, the impacts that solar has on that system,
- and the claims that I made in my opening testimony.

- 1 <u>Changes in Operating Practices to Integrate Solar</u>
- 2 Q. On the final page of his testimony, Mr. Hanzlik disputes the notion that DESC's solar
- 3 integration costs may be close to zero and discusses how solar affects his actual real-time
- 4 experience in the control room. How do you respond?
- 5 A. First, I want to make it perfectly clear that my opening testimony and this surrebuttal are
- 6 in no way intended to minimize the importance of the job that DESC's System Control team,
- 7 including Mr. Hanzlik, performs on a daily basis. This is a critical service that DESC provides to
- 8 its customers.
- 9 Additionally, I agree with Mr. Hanzlik that the introduction of solar creates new
- operational challenges that the traditional approach to system control must adapt to. This
- undoubtedly makes Mr. Hanzlik's job more challenging in some ways. However, the important
- question for the Commission to consider is not whether solar has led to changes in DESC's
- operations clearly that is true. Instead, the relevant question is whether or not these new
- operating practices amount to any meaningful increase in DESC's operating costs that are then
- passed on to DESC customers.
- While Mr. Hanzlik shows how the system responds to real-world fluctuations in solar
- output, he does not present any information demonstrating that this leads to a meaningful
- increase in operating costs that are charged to DESC customers. By the same token, Mr.
- 19 Hanzlik's testimony does not claim that DESC has needed to increase the total amount of
- 20 operating reserves it normally commits even as solar has come online. While there may come a
- 21 point in time where DESC needs to increase the total operating reserves it normally commits in
- order to accommodate solar, nothing in Mr. Hanzlik's testimony suggests that this has happened
- 23 yet.

period). It is worth noting that this is significantly less than the 581 MW of required operating

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> DESC IRP Hrg. Tr. at 363.

- 1 reserves for solar that Guidehouse assumes for Tranche 1 in the month of June. It is also much
- 2 less than the average amount of operating reserves DESC actually held on its system for this
- 3 month, which exceeded 1,000 MW.<sup>38</sup>
- 4 Second, Mr. Hanzlik shows a drop in solar production that occurred on July 27, 2021.
- 5 This amounted to a drop in generation of about ~150 MW over 45 minutes (or about ~50 MW
- 6 per 15-min period). It is worth noting that this is significantly less than the 561 MW of required
- 7 operating reserves for solar that Guidehouse assumes for Tranche 1 in the month of July. It is
- 8 also much less than the average amount of operating reserves DESC held on its system last July,
- 9 which exceeded 1,000 MW.<sup>39</sup> While I agree that the drop in production at the Peony facility in
- both of these cases was significant when viewed in isolation, it appears to have been a
- manageable event when viewed from the DESC system perspective. Furthermore, the afternoon
- drop that occurred on July 27<sup>th</sup> was actually roughly consistent with the developer's forecast.

Finally, Mr. Hanzlik shows a drop in solar production that occurred on July 29, 2021. In

this case, Mr. Hanzlik focuses on the reduction in solar output that occurs in the late afternoon as

the sun is setting, which occurs shortly after DESC's system peak load. What is important to

keep in mind here is that the change in net load as solar comes off-line in the evening is not a

surprise and is a well-understood issue for system operators and planners. While this challenge

must be addressed, it is not necessarily an "integration cost" per se as DESC has defined it—that

is, this drop in production is *expected* in advance and can be planned for. This contrasts with the

integration costs associated with the VIC which reflect the operating reserves required to handle

21 *unexpected* drops in production.

17

18

19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> See Burgess opening testimony, Table 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> See Burgess opening testimony, Table 1. Data for July 2021 was not provided by DESC.

As with the previous July example, the drops in production during the day are significantly less than the operating reserve requirements Guidehouse modeled for July. They are also less than the reserves typically available on DESC's system even before any solar was deployed on the system. Q. Do you have any general conclusions to draw from the examples that Mr. Hanzlik presented? To date, the integration of solar on DESC's system appears to be manageable and does A. not appear to require the extreme increases in operating reserves that the Guidehouse VIC analysis suggests. Presumably Mr. Hanzlik would agree that DESC has been operating its system in a reliable manner prior to any recommendations from Guidehouse for excessively increasing operating reserves. Additionally, while known in advance, I appreciate the challenge that reduced solar output presents when it coincides with the summer afternoon peak around 4pm. As such, I would support efforts to encourage or incentivize the avoidance of solar drops at this time (e.g. via battery storage). However, this is a wholly separate issue than DESC's proposed VIC and purported integration costs. Solar Forecasting Q. Mr. Hanzlik commented on the generation forecasts provided to DESC by solar facilities, and how these cannot necessarily be relied upon. How do you respond?

I can't speak to the specifics of Mr. Hanzlik's claims, but agree that increasing the

immaterial because DESC already develops its own forecast for these facilities that appears to be

accuracy of solar facility forecasts would likely be helpful. That said, this is somewhat

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

A.

- 1 far more accurate. As the chart on page 23 of his testimony shows, the DESC forecast tracks
- 2 very closely with actual production throughout the day.

4

- Q. Do you have any further observations about this chart on page 23?
- 5 A. Yes. First, it is worth noting that the aggregated developer forecasts represent an *under*-
- 6 forecast not an *over*-forecast. Meanwhile, the VIC analysis only considers drops in solar
- 7 production from what was expected (i.e., over-forecasts), thus the fact that the solar developers
- 8 tend to underpredict generation should have no bearing on the integration costs being considered
- 9 in this proceeding. Second, Mr. Hanzlik mentioned that some developers do not provide a
- 10 forecast. The fact that developer generation forecast is so much lower than DESC's leads me to
- believe that this chart might simply be a reflection of the missing forecasts, and is not solely due
- to any inaccuracies of the forecasts that were actually provided.

13

14

- Q. What does Mr. Hanzlik say regarding the forecast time horizon?
- 15 A. Mr. Hanzlik challenges the notion that a 1-hour solar forecast would be that helpful,
- stating that "the accuracy or the timeframe of the forecasts cannot eliminate the need for
- Operating Reserves given that the variability of solar remains in all scenarios."<sup>40</sup>
- 18 While I don't disagree, this statement is somewhat misleading since no serious analyst would
- 19 expect an improved forecast to *completely* eliminate the need for Operating Reserves. In fact, it
- 20 is likely that an improved forecast could significantly reduce the Operating Reserves needed
- 21 within a day even if they are not completely eliminated. For example, a 1-hour forecast might
- 22 anticipate an unexpected storm front that emerges in the afternoon that was not captured in a 4-

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Hanzlik Rebuttal, p 25.

hour forecast. If this weather pattern were expected to decrease solar output from 400 MW in the 1 original forecast to 300 MW, then that is a 25% reduction in the solar resources that are at risk of 2 3 dropping and for which operating reserves must compensate. DESC's operators could then respond in real time by reducing the amount of operating reserves they commit to accommodate 4 solar by approximately 25%. That said, it does not appear that DESC has appreciably increased 5 6 its Operating Reserves to date to accommodate the significant solar on its system, and therefore any improvements to solar forecasting may not impact Operating Reserve requirements until 7 more solar has been added to the system. 8 9 10 Fairfield Pumped Hydro O. Mr. Hanzlik discussed the interaction between solar and Fairfield Pumped Storage 11 (FFPS) facility on a day in January 2021. What do you conclude from this episode? 12 A. This episode demonstrates how resources like FFPS provides substantial flexibility to 13 14 integrate solar, in combination with the use of necessary solar curtailment. While Mr. Hanzlik's characterization of these tools is somewhat negative, I don't believe the use of pumped storage or 15 curtailment for integration purposes should be viewed as a bad thing. While the elevation of the 16 17 reservoir did approach its limit, it did not actually exceed this limit, and curtailment of solar could be utilized to avoid potential future exceedances. I believe that over time DESC will learn 18 19 from this experience to avoid similar issues in the future. Additionally, necessary curtailment 20 under extreme conditions is a helpful tool for solar integration and can be better implemented

through more flexible solar contract options as more solar comes online.

21

22

## 1 VI. RESPONSE TO MR. KASSIS'S REBUTTAL

- 2 Stakeholder Process
- 3 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Kassis' characterization that there has been a robust stakeholder
- 4 and peer review process leading to its VIC proposal?
- 5 A. No. Mr. Kassis seems to be suggesting that because DESC's previously proposed VIC
- 6 was litigated and rejected by this Commission in Docket No. 2019-184-E that a sufficient
- stakeholder process has occurred. In my opinion, that previously litigated proceeding, which
- 8 focused on an entirely different integration study, in no way represents a valid substitute for a
- 9 robust stakeholder engagement or peer review process of DESC's current integration study. This
- is not consistent with a common understanding of stakeholder engagement or the peer review
- 11 process.

12

#### 13 <u>VII. CONCLUSION</u>

- Q. Based on your review of DESC's rebuttal testimony, have you made any changes to the
- 15 recommendations included in your direct testimony?
- 16 A. No. I continue to recommend that the Commission should either:
- a) fix the VIC at a level consistent with the recommendations in my opening testimony
- 18 (i.e., at zero or at the alternative calculations), <u>or</u>
- b) eliminate the VIC until the Commission adopts a new avoided cost rate in the future.
- 20 Under this latter approach, any future VIC should only apply prospectively to PPAs executed
- 21 after that new rate is approved.
- 22 Q. Does this conclude your Rebuttal Testimony?
- 23 A. Yes.